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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants request that the information listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Office during the pendency of the above-entitled application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application, or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits. No fee or certification is required.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

37 CFR 1.8(A)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231.

2/07/2001

Signature Dena Fan's

No fees are believed to be necessary. Please charge any fees that may be necessary for prosecution of the present application to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0563.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian F. Russell

Reg. No. 40,796

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